

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A vulcanizing mold for pneumatic tires, comprising:

upper and lower base plates;

upper and lower sidewall mold members for forming tire sidewall portions, said upper and lower sidewall mold members being attached to said upper and lower base plates, respectively;

upper and lower tread mold members for forming a tire tread portion, said upper and lower tread mold members being attached to said upper and lower base plates, respectively;

said upper and lower tread mold members being constituted of upper segments and lower segments, respectively, said upper and lower segments being displaceable only radially relative to said upper and lower sidewall mold members, respectively; and

a spring that urges the lower segments radially outwards; and

a single cam ring in direct engagement with the upper and lower tread mold members, the single cam ring being displaceable independently of approaching displacements of said sidewall mold members toward each other, to thereby simultaneously displace all of said upper and lower segments radially inwards while the single cam ring remains in direct engagement with the upper and lower tread mold members and while said upper and lower segments are in abutment with each other.

2. (Previously Amended) The vulcanizing mold according to claim 1, wherein said upper and lower segments are indirectly engaged with said upper and lower base plates, respectively, such that they are radially displaceable relative to respective one of said sidewall mold members.

3. (Canceled).
4. (Original) The vulcanizing mold according to claim 1, wherein said upper segments are always in engagement with said cam ring on radially inner side thereof.
5. (Previously Amended) The vulcanizing mold according to claim 1, further comprising abutment means for defining the upper limit position of the cam ring relative to the upper base plate.
6. (Currently Amended) A vulcanizing method for vulcanizing pneumatic tires with a vulcanizing mold which comprises: (i) upper and lower base plates; (ii) upper and lower sidewall mold members attached to said upper and lower base plates, respectively; and (iii) upper and lower tread mold members attached to said upper and lower base plates, respectively, the upper and lower tread mold members being in direct engagement with a cam ring; (iv) said upper and lower tread mold members being constituted of upper segments and lower segments, respectively, which are radially expanded and contracted relative to the upper and lower sidewall mold members, respectively, the lower segments being urged radially outwards by a spring; said method comprising the steps of:

displacing said upper and lower sidewall mold members toward each other so that said upper and lower segments are brought into abutment with each other; and

operating the cam ring while the cam ring remains in direct engagement with the upper and lower tread mold members to simultaneously displace all of said segments radially inwards independently of approaching displacements of said ~~side wall~~ sidewall mold members toward each other and relative to said upper and lower sidewall mold members, with said upper segments in abutment with said lower segments.

7. (Canceled).